

## Comment on Governor's Sustainable Energy Plan for Illinois

March 8, 2005

I wish to commend Governor Blagojevich for his Sustainable Energy Plan. This Plan is a vital step to ensure that non-polluting, renewable energy becomes a serious component of our state's economic development as well as environmental future, and achieve energy security as well. I would recommend consideration of the following:

- The penalty of \$25.00 per megawatt-hour may be too low to be an effective incentive for some utilities to seriously pursue clean energy, and that there may be a willingness to pay the penalty as a cost of doing business as usual. I recommend an increase, either starting the penalty higher at \$50.00/MWh, or a graduation of \$5.00 per MWh every year.
- Methane recovery from landfill gas should be either discounted or avoided as a renewable energy source in this Plan. While there are many benefits in using this resource as a cleaner alternative, landfills generally have a finite life of 20-30 years of commercially viable gas availability. Barring a banning or reduction of landfill gas as a portfolio component, it is suggested that the output be matched by a certain percentage of emission-free electricity such as solar electricity to be counted.
- It is recommended that power purchase agreements or other such instruments have a minimum term of twenty (20) years, instead of ten. The ten-year time periods are acceptable for certain energy efficiency items, or small capital items like boiler replacements. But power plants traditionally have contract periods of 30-40 years, 50 years for hydro facilities, and wind, solar and other sources require a minimum of 20, preferably 30 years.

All in all, the Sustainable Energy Plan is an exciting introduction to a bright energy future for Illinois. Thank you.

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